Please cancel claims 9-11 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 8 and 12-13, and add new claims 14-16 as follows:

1-7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A data search system comprising a data center <u>for gathering data from a plurality of biological information databases and</u> for distributing data and a user's facility for receiving the data distributed from the data center to use the data for a data search,

the data center including at least one computer which comprises:

means for downloading data from a plurality of <u>biological information</u> databases;

means for generating link information <u>which shows how the plurality of biological information databases are associated by extracting information on how a data entry in a database associates with another data entry in another database from</u> ~~among the plurality of databases that follows the origin of~~ the downloaded data;

means for generating detailed information <u>by extracting an ID of a data entry and an explanation of the data entry from</u> ~~of~~ each data entry~~, based on~~ <u>in</u> the downloaded data;

means for generating data for homology search <u>by extracting the ID and sequence data of the data entry from</u> ~~the~~ each data entry~~, based on~~ <u>in</u> the downloaded data;

a route table <u>in which information of permitted routes among</u> ~~the defining data search rule for searching data of interest in~~ the <u>biological information</u> databases <u>is stored</u>; and

means for distributing to the user's facility the link information, the detailed information of said each data entry, the data for homology search, and the route table, and

the user's facility including at least one computer which comprises:

means for conducting the data search using the link information, the detailed information of said each data entry, the data for homology search, and the route table distributed from the data center.

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9-11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Currently Amended) The data search system according to claim 8, wherein the route table stores [[the]]a data search rule which restricts searches routes for each database of the plurality of biological information databases only along links following an origin of data of interest as defined therein.

13.   (Currently Amended) The data search system according to claim 8, wherein the means for conducting the data search in the user's facility conducts the data search by following only the permitted routes which are defined in the route table and among search routes indicated by the link information without following the links of routes which are not defined in the search rule following an origin of the data of interest, even if there is other link information between the each data entry defined in the route table.

14.   (New) A data search method implemented by a data center and a user's facility, comprising:

      gathering by a computer in the data center data from a plurality of biological information databases by: downloading data from a plurality of biological information databases; generating link information which shows how the plurality of biological information databases are associated by extracting information on how a data entry in a database associates with another data entry in another database from the downloaded data; generating detailed information by extracting an ID of a data entry and an explanation of the data entry from of each data entry in the downloaded data; generating data for homology search by extracting the ID and sequence data of the data entry from each data entry in the downloaded data; and maintaining a route table in which information of permitted routes among the biological information databases is stored;

      distributing by the computer in the data center to the user's facility the link information, the detailed information of said each data entry, the data for homology search, and the route table; and

conducting by a computer in the user's facility the data search using the link information, the detailed information of said each data entry, the data for homology search, and the route table distributed from the data center.

15. (New) The data search method according to claim 14, wherein the route table stores a data search rule which restricts searches routes for each database of the plurality of biological information databases.

16. (New) The data search method according to claim 14, wherein the step of conducting the data search in the user's facility is conducted by following only the permitted routes which are defined in the route table and among search routes indicated by the link information.